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## **Richmond Highway - Telegraph Road Connector**

# **PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**Monday, October 24, 2005**

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**South County Government Center  
8350 Richmond Highway  
Alexandria, Virginia**

**Federal Highway Administration**



## **WELCOME**

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- **2<sup>nd</sup> Public Information Meeting**
- **Environmental Assessment Project**
- **Meeting Facilitator:**
  - Jack Van Dop, Project Manager*
  - Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division*
  - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)*
- **Purpose of Tonight's Meeting:**
  - Project Update, Public Input, Next Steps**

## ***TONIGHT'S MEETING AGENDA***

- **Informal Public Input**
- **Brief Presentation**
  - **Project Description**
  - **Purpose & Need**
  - **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) & National Historic Preservation Act Processes**
  - **Project Update - Traffic/Historic/Citizen/Field**
  - **Project Schedule**
- **Informal Public Input**

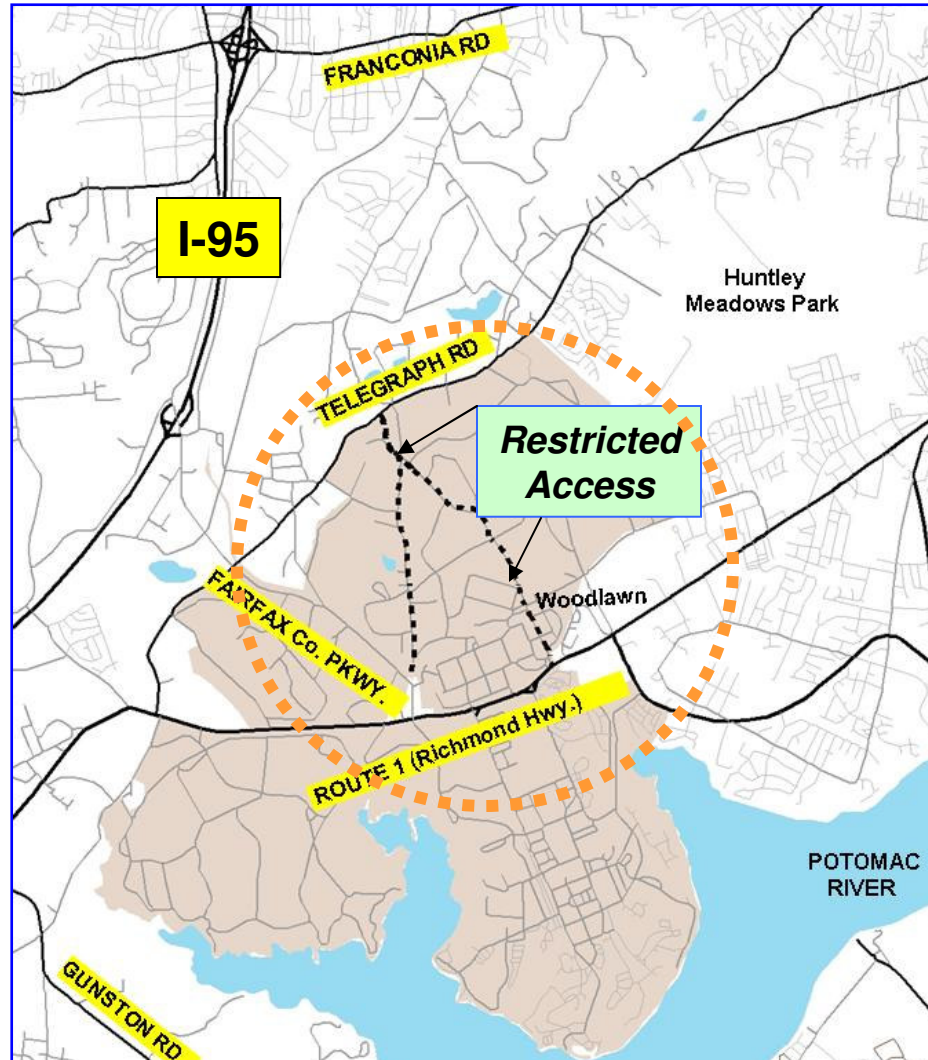


## **STAKEHOLDERS**




- **FHWA (Lead Agency)** 
- **U.S. Army**
  - Fort Belvoir 
  - Humphreys Engineering Center
  - Corps of Engineers – Baltimore District 
- **Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)**
- **Fairfax County**  
- **Citizen Task Force/Other Groups**

*FHWA Consultant: HDR Engineering, Alexandria, VA*

## *Richmond Highway - Telegraph Road Connector*



# **PROJECT LOCATION**

-  Fort Belvoir Boundary
-  Study Area
-  Major Roads

## ***PROJECT DESCRIPTION***

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- **Restricted Access After 9/11/01**

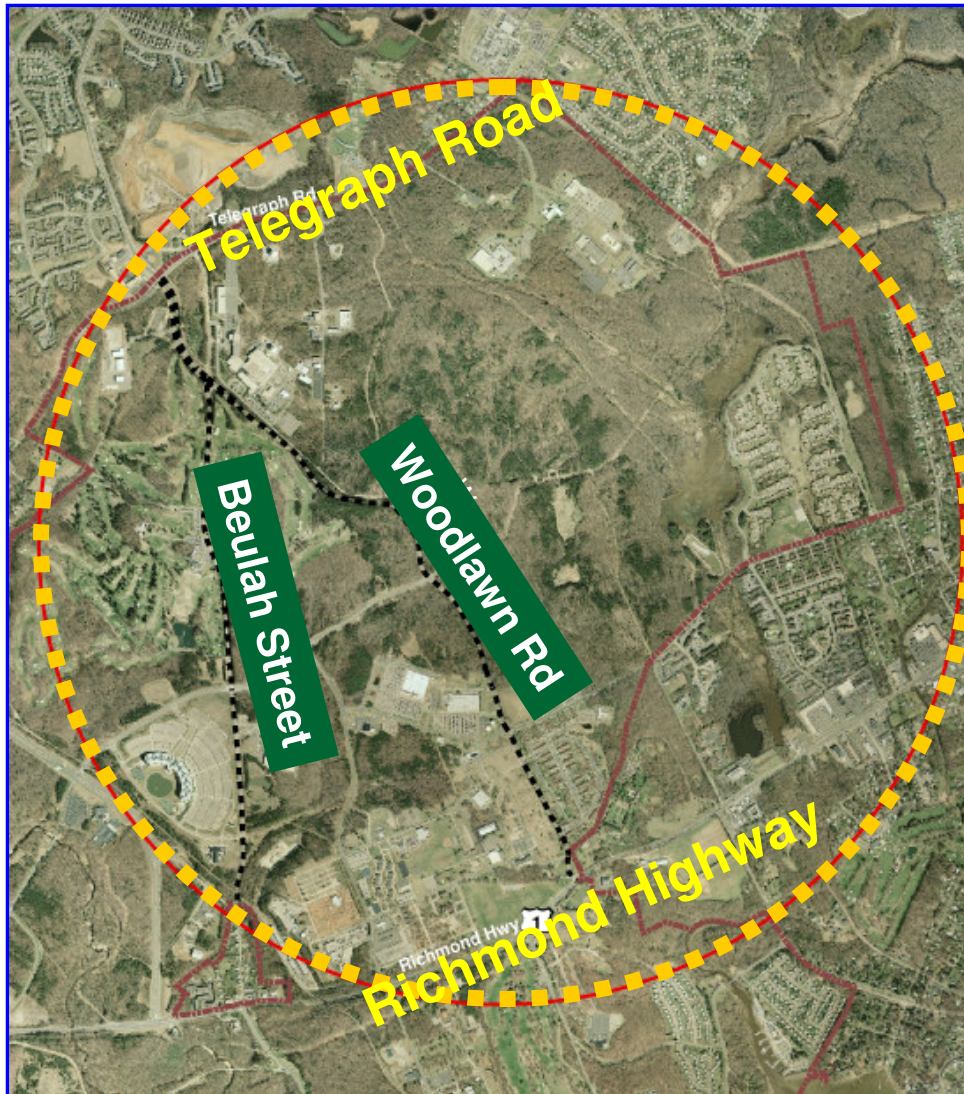
*Closure of Beulah Street and Woodlawn Road  
to General Public*

- **Continued Requirement for Enhanced  
Security**

- **Project Purpose & Need: Replacement  
Access for General Public**



## *Richmond Highway - Telegraph Road Connector*



## **STUDY AREA**

- ■ ■ ■ Study Area Boundary
- ■ ■ ■ Closed Roads
- ..... Fort Belvoir Boundary

## ***PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Cont.)***

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- **Early Potential Alternative Corridors**
  - Feasibility Study (7 alternative corridors)
  - Subsequent recommendations
- **Alternative Corridors (A thru D)**
- **Additional Alternatives**
  - Road corridors    - TSM / TDM
- **Termini Locations:** Telegraph Rd. & U.S. Route 1



## ***PREVIOUS STUDIES***

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- ***Preliminary Feasibility Study, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, November 2003***
- ***Fort Belvoir Real Property Master Plan – Long Range Component***
- **VDOT and Fairfax County - Traffic Studies and Road Construction Plans (e.g., U.S. Route 1)**

## **NEPA PROCESS**

- **Guiding Regulation for Study**
- **Requires an examination of alternatives, including “No-Build”**
- **Environmental Impacts**
  - Avoid   - Minimize   - Mitigate
- **Document Type: Environmental Assessment (EA)**
- **Decision Document Completes the NEPA Process**



## ***OTHER ACTS, REGULATIONS***

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- **FHWA Technical Advisory T6640.A**
- **CEQ Regulations**
- **Section 4(f) US DOT Act of 1966**
- **Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act**
- **Uniform Relocation Assistance Act**
- **Clean Water Act (Section 404)**
- **Executive Orders (e.g. Environmental Justice, Floodplains, Wetlands)**

## ***PROJECT UPDATE***

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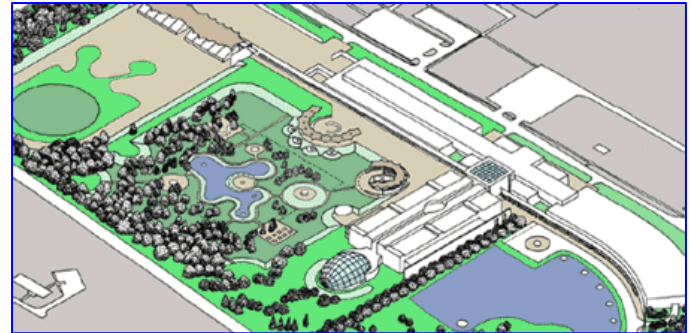
- **Other Projects Coordination**
- **Traffic Analysis**
- **Historic Coordination**
- **Public/Citizens Input**
- **Field Work**
- **Engineering**

**PROJECT UPDATE**

***Other Projects - Coordination***

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- National Museum of the US Army
- Potomac Heritage National Trail
- U.S. Route 1 safety improvements
- Telegraph Road Improvements
- Fort Belvoir Master Plan
- Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)
- Fairfax County Transportation Plan Update



Army Museum Concept

**PROJECT UPDATE**

**TRAFFIC DATA**

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■ **Traffic Analysis and Forecast**

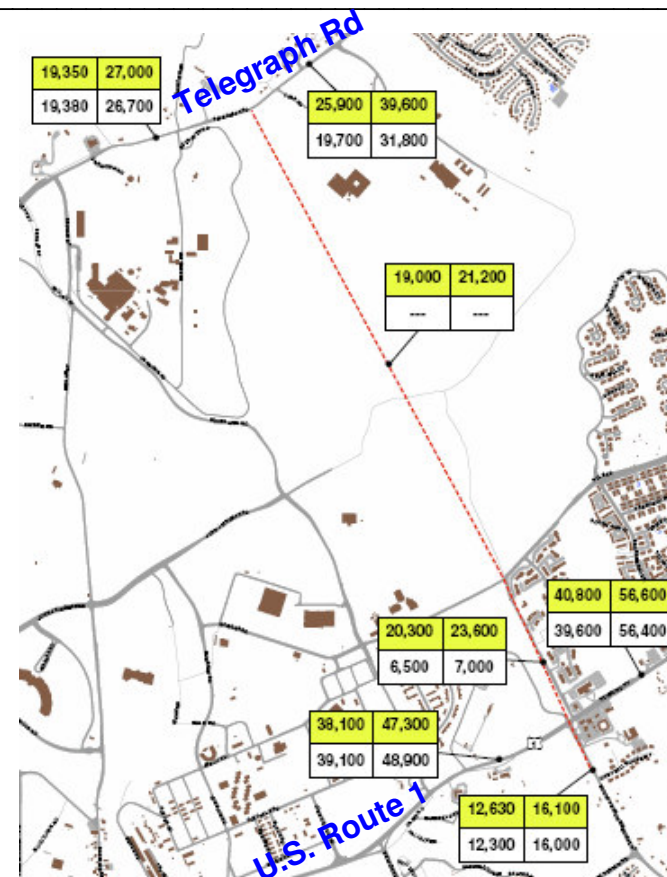
- ❑ Uses the latest regional travel demand forecasting model developed by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC)
- ❑ Land use assumptions from the latest draft of the Fort Belvoir Master Plan (April 2005)
- ❑ Includes traffic forecasts for the future National Museum of the U.S. Army
- ❑ Does not include Base Closure and Realignment Commission's (BRAC) assumptions for Fort Belvoir
- ❑ Reflects planned transportation improvements from the region's Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan



## Richmond Highway - Telegraph Road Connector

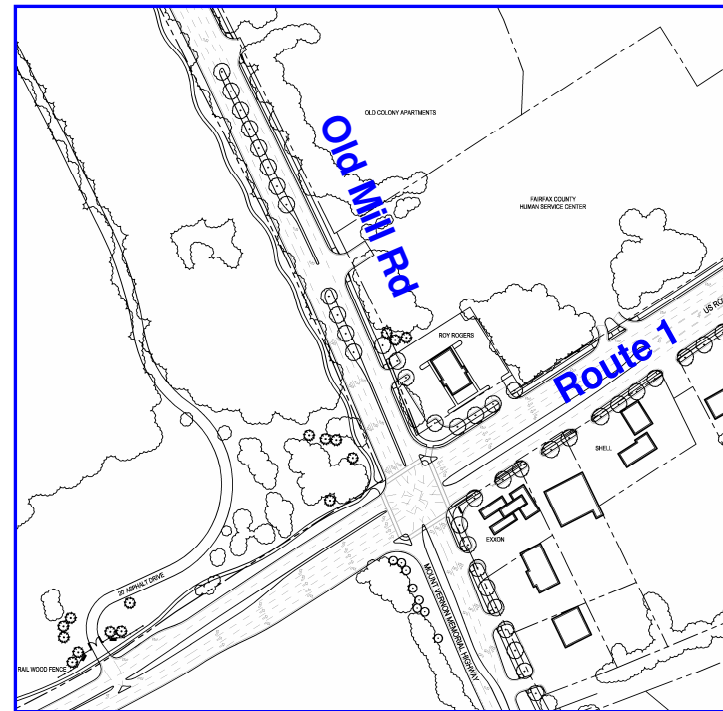
### PROJECT UPDATE

# TRAFFIC DATA



**PROJECT UPDATE**  
***Intersection Options***

- **VDOT, Fairfax Co. DOT, and FHWA concerns for Levels of Service.**
- **Richmond Highway at Woodlawn Plantation is a “gateway” to historic district.**
- **Benefits of aligning of Mt. Vernon Highway with Old Mill Road for traffic operations.**
- **Options incorporate context sensitive solutions for improved pedestrian/bicycle access.**
- **Woodlawn entrance may be relocated further south down Richmond Highway away from intersection.**



Possible Schematic

**PROJECT UPDATE**

***Historic Preservation – Section 106 Process***

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- Woodlawn Plantation is a National Historic Landmark, highest federal designation
- FHWA has determined that a number of known historic properties and archeological sites may be affected by the proposed project.
- Consulting Parties process has been initiated towards a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
- MOA would define strategies to avoid a property, minimize project impacts, or mitigate adverse effects



**PROJECT UPDATE**

***Historic Preservation (Section 106, cont'd.)***

■ **Consulting Parties**

- ❑ Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources (DHR)/ State Historic Preservation Office
- ❑ Fairfax County Architectural Review Board
- ❑ Fairfax County Dept. of Planning & Zoning
- ❑ Fairfax County History Commission
- ❑ Fairfax County Dept. of Transportation
- ❑ Gum Springs Historical Society
- ❑ Gunston Hall
- ❑ Historic Mount Vernon
- ❑ National Trust for Historic Preservation
- ❑ Pohick Church
- ❑ Quaker Friends Meeting House
- ❑ US Army - Defense Access Road Program
- ❑ US Army Garrison - Fort Belvoir
- ❑ VDOT – Northern Virginia
- ❑ Woodlawn Plantation - National Trust for Historic Preservation
- ❑ Woodlawn Baptist Church
- ❑ Concerned citizens



**PROJECT UPDATE**

***PUBLIC COMMENT — From Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting***

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- Study process – *Get Citizen Input/Task Force.*
- Route 235 (Mount Vernon Memorial Highway) – *Preserve it.*
- Historic and cultural resources – *Avoid impacts to Woodlawn Plantation.*
- Other Environment - *Avoid impacts to wetlands, woodlands, etc.*
- Fort Security – *Close all gates, Use blast protection, Tunnel/trench roads*
- Alternatives – *Consensus for “Alternative C”; Do not build the “dog-leg” at Route 1; Some suggested simply re-open Beulah/Woodlawn.*
- Typical Sections – *“Parkway”; provide amenities, i.e. bicycle paths*
- Traffic Issues – *There is a lot of congestion NOW.*

**PROJECT UPDATE**

***Citizens Task Force***

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- **Citizens Task Force Established**
    - Formed by Supervisors Hyland and Kauffman
    - Seven members from local area
    - Meetings in June and September - Task Force briefed on project activities
  - **Citizen Task Force Recommends Newsletter**
  - **Citizen Task Force Recommends this Interim Public Information Meeting**
  - **Provides Feedback on Project Activities**
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**PROJECT UPDATE**  
***Field Work***

- ❑ **Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat**
- ❑ **Phase I Archeological Assessment**
- ❑ **Survey work**
- ❑ **Site Visits**
- ❑ **Noise Data**
- ❑ **Intersection Layout**



**PROJECT UPDATE**

**ROADWAY DESIGN**

- **4-Lane Road to Replace Two 2-Lane Roads**
- **Roadway Type**
- **Secure Roadway through Fort for Public**
- **VDOT Owned and Maintained**



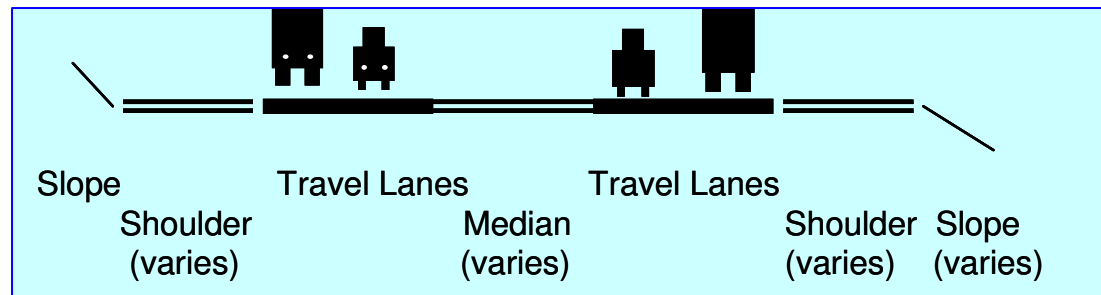
## ***ROADWAY DESIGN OPTIONS***

### ■ **“Typical Section”**

- Urban vs. Rural
- Typical width
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Paths
- Amenities, i.e. Lighting



Possible Example: Telegraph Rd



## **COMPLETED TASKS**

- ✓ **Study Area Definition**
- ✓ **Review and independent verification of findings of COE Preliminary Feasibility Study**
- ✓ **Agency Scoping Meeting; Agency Stakeholder Meetings**
- ✓ **Public Meeting #1**
- ✓ **Data Collection, Mapping and Resource Identification**
- ✓ **Resources Field Work**
- ✓ **Initial Traffic Analysis; Future Year(s) Traffic Model**
- ✓ **Draft Candidate Alternatives Review**
- ✓ **Draft Existing Conditions Report**
- ✓ **Initiate Section 106 Historic Consultation**

## ***NEXT STEPS***

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- **Ongoing Preliminary Engineering**
- **Evaluate Impacts**
- **Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement**
- **Complete Environmental Study & Document**
- **Submit for Public and Agency Review**
- **Public Information Meeting**
- **Decision Document**

## ***PUBLIC INPUT***

- **Help Identify Issues & Concerns**
- **Comments**
- **Participate this Evening**
- **Mail in Comments**
- **E-mail to: [jack.j.vandop@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:jack.j.vandop@fhwa.dot.gov)**
- **Web site for project updates:**  
***[www.evl.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/active\\_projects.htm](http://www.evl.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/active_projects.htm)***





## ***PROJECT SCHEDULE***

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<b>Project Start-up</b>	<b>Oct. 2004</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Public Information Meeting</b>	<b>Feb. 2005</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Public Information Meeting</b>	<b>Oct. 2005</b>
<b>Release NEPA Document</b>	<b>Early 2006</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Public Information Meeting</b>	<b>Early 2006</b>
<b>Decision Document</b>	<b>Spring 2006</b>
<b>Design/Permits/Right-of-Way</b>	<b>2006-2008</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>
<b>Connector Road Opens</b>	<b>2009</b>

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